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The following views on the Moscow Peace Conference have been expressed by SED and CDU party circles in discussions on this very important subject:

1. Sozialistische Einheitspartei Deutschland (SED)

a. Leading circles of the SED are of the opinion that the peace settlement for Germany will be without a doubt very difficult. The fact that the German arguments are justified will scarcely influence the decision. The soundest basis for a political party program on the subject appears to the SED to be represented by the thesis of "einer Grenze der Lebensmöglichkeit" (a border to permit life). Within this framework, the territorial and economic factors are to be pointed out, the disregard of which would constitute the loss of an independent governmental and economic life for Germany. The manner in which these particulars will be presented has not been determined.

b. The SED will consider the eastern boundary of Germany, that is, the western boundary of Poland, as the most important point in the peace settlement. In connection with the international situation, the SED rightly maintains that the Potsdam Agreement does not establish these boundaries permanently, but has only assigned the area of the Russian Occupation Zone east of the Oder-Neisse line to Polish administration. Apart from the announcements made so far by the Soviets, which, as is known, limit the revision of this line as desired by the SED, the Party believes that an important point to be considered in the correction of this line is the fact that east of the Oder-Neisse, the Germans are being subjected to strict measures of expulsion to the West. The SED scarcely considers it possible that these actual circumstances, which weigh more heavily in the balance than the temporary legal status of the area, can be corrected. However, it is hoped that the many hardships which large numbers of refugees have experienced, will be mitigated at least by a considerate handling of the problem.

c. Further, SED circles are discussing the new developments of the Saar question and its negotiations.

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It is maintained that these developments constitute a digression from the Potsdam Agreement, or at least that it was not the original intention of the Allies to treat the question in this sense. If the present status of the Saar is upheld, or if complete separation is decided, it will be necessary to find ways and means to obtain a more favorable peace settlement for Germany on other points. It is said that the SCD has appealed to the Soviet Control Commission on this question and has requested the Political Division to submit a report to Moscow.

2. Christlich-Demokratische Union (CDU)

Leading CDU circles firmly maintain that the eastern boundary in its projected form along the Oder-Neisse constitutes an impossibility. According to their opinion, any authorized German representatives who signed such a treaty and attempted to support the recognition of this line would compromise themselves for future political work in Germany to such an extent that they would no longer be able to make constructive contributions to further internal political reconstruction. According to the opinion of the CDU, it would make no difference whether this were done by a central government, or a body of specially authorized German representatives. Extreme circles of the CDU even envisage the time of an outright refusal to sign such a treaty.

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